

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

assembling a die by attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base and contacting the first and second blocks to each other with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land, ~~thereby forming a die;~~

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from the slot of the die to said web;

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  when said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and second blocks are assembled to form the die in an environment with an ambient temperature in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;

wherein said first block is disposed downstream from said second block in a feeding direction of said web, and said first lip land is nearer to said web than said second lip land.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said first block is attached to the surface of said base with a plate member sandwiched therebetween.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said backs of said first block and said second block are fixed or temporarily fixed to said base.

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first and second blocks are fixed at two positions to said base with bolts.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said two positions are apart at least 5 cm from each other.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first block and said second block are pressed to said base when while adjusting positions of said first lip land and said second lip land.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a height of said step is measured with an optical microscope, a step measuring machine of contact type, or a laser displacement meter which is movable in three dimensions.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

assembling a die by attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base and contacting the first and second blocks to each other with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land, ~~thereby forming a die;~~

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from a the slot of a the die to said web;

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is set to  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  when said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the

first and second blocks are assembled to form the die while water whose temperature is in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  is supplied inside of said die;

wherein said first block is disposed downstream from said second block in a feeding direction of said web, and said first lip land is nearer to said web than said second lip land.

12. (currently amended) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

assembling a die by attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base and contacting the first and second blocks to each other with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land, ~~thereby forming a die;~~

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from a the slot of a the die to said web;

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is set to  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  when said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and second blocks are assembled to form the die with a

ribbon heater is wound around said first and second blocks to keep a temperature of said ribbon heater in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  -  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  when said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and second blocks are assembled in an environment with an ambient temperature in a range of from  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;

wherein said first block is disposed downstream from said second block in a feeding direction of said web, and said first lip land is nearer to said web than said second lip land.

13. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

measuring a height of said step with an optical microscope, a step measuring machine of contact type, or a laser displacement meter which is movable in three dimensions, after combining said first block and said second block.

14. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein during the feeding and discharging steps, neither the first lip land nor the second lip land is in contact with the web.

15. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein during the feeding and discharging steps, neither the first lip land nor the second lip land is in contact with the web.

16. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein during the feeding and discharging steps, neither the first lip land nor the second lip land is in contact with the web.